

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1288

By Maggart

A RESOLUTION affirming the importance of folic acid in diets of women of childbearing age.

WHEREAS, each year, 2,500 babies are born with neural tube defects, and many additional pregnancies result in miscarriage or stillbirth due to inadequate maternal folic acid levels; and

WHEREAS, at least half of these cases could be prevented if women consumed the proper amount of folic acid during early pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board, the Spina Bifida Association, and the March of Dimes have recommended that women who might become pregnant should consume 400 micrograms of synthetic folic acid every day from a vitamin or from fortified foods, in addition to eating a healthy diet rich in natural sources of folate; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that consumption of multivitamins containing folic acid may also help prevent cleft palate, congenital heart defects, prematurity, and low birth weight; and

WHEREAS, while public awareness is improving, many women still do not know the benefits of regularly consuming folic acid, and only one-third take a daily vitamin containing folic acid; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly supports a public education campaign on the importance of folic acid in the diets of women of childbearing age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the strategies of the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Folic Acid Council to increase state advocacy efforts

regarding the benefits of folic acid to the general public and health care providers so that the incidence of preventable neural tube defects is reduced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.